

DATELINE #92 WASHINGTON, D.C.
ALINA ZERANSKI

JUNE 23, 1976

FELLOWSHIP CLUBS PREVENT LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: DATELINE: WASHINGTON, D.C. -- PICTURES IN SOUND OF PEOPLE PLACES AND EVENTS HERE IN THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES -- BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA EACH WEEK AT THIS TIME. TODAY, A REPORT PREPARED BY ALINA ZERANSKI ON A VISIT TO A CLUB WHERE SENIOR CITIZENS CAN SPEND THEIR DAYS WITHOUT BEING LONELY OR DEPENDENT UPON THE COMPANY AND CARE OF THEIR FAMILIES.

NARR: A GROUP OF ELDERLY PEOPLE SIT AROUND A PHONOGRAPH LISTENING TO A TUNE FROM THE TWENTIES. IN A FEW MOMENTS THEY WILL SING IT TOGETHER WITH A YOUNG WOMAN ACCOMPANYING ON A GUITAR AND HELPING THEM WITH THE WORDS. NEXT COMES AN HOUR OF SHARING MEMORIES. EVERYONE WILL HAVE HIS TURN IN TELLING WHERE HE HEARD THIS SONG AND WHAT MEMORIES IT BRINGS BACK. MEMORIES ARE SO IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO... THEIR EYES START SHINING, THEY LAUGH AGAIN, THE APATHY IS GONE.

THIS IS A TYPICAL AFTERNOON AT THE NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP CLUB, A SPECIAL DAY-CARE CENTER FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. MONICA PRASSE, THE MUSIC THERAPIST, WHO ALSO SERVES AS DIRECTOR OF THIS CENTER, GIVES US MORE DETAILS.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- PRASSE

"THE DAY-CARE CENTER IS SPECIFICALLY AN ADULT DAY-CARE CENTER FOR ELDERLY SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE STILL LIVING WITH THEIR FAMILIES, WITH THEIR SPOUSES OR WITH THEIR CHILDREN... SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE DISABLED IN SOME WAY PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY, OR EMOTIONALLY, AND WHO NEED SOME

TAPE: EXTRA CARE, SOME EXTRA SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION. THEY ARE
(CONT'D) NOT TO FUNCTION BY THEMSELVES ANY MORE, YET THEY ARE NOT
SEVERELY DISABLED ENOUGH TO NEED NURSING CARE 24 HOURS...
OUR CENTER PROVIDES A PLACE FOR THEM TO COME TO DURING THE
DAY, ROUGHLY FOR EIGHT HOURS, WHERE WE HAVE A STRUCTURED
THERAPEUTIC DAY, CONSISTING OF MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF
ACTIVITIES FROM MUSIC THERAPY, DANCE THERAPY, ART THERAPY.
WE TAKE TRIPS INTO THE COMMUNITY EVERY WEEK. WE TRY TO
PACE OUR PROGRAM ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS."

NARR: SOME PARTICIPANTS COME EVERY DAY, OTHERS JUST TWICE OR
THREE TIMES A WEEK. THEY ARE FORGETFUL, OFTEN CONFUSED.
MANY SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION CAUSED BY LONELINESS, DISABILITY
OR THE PAINFUL FEELING OF BEING A BURDEN TO THEIR CHILDREN.
SOME ARE WITHDRAWN, AND IT IS VITAL TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO
EXPRESS THEMSELVES. THIS CENTER HELPS THEM TO MAINTAIN AN
INTEREST IN LIFE, TO IMPROVE THEIR PHYSICAL INDEPENDENCE,
AND IT PROVIDES A RELIEF TO THEIR FAMILIES. SINCE EVERYONE
LIVES IN A SEVEN-KILOMETER RADIUS, IT IS EASY TO CONTINUE
THE FRIENDSHIPS THEY FIND HERE EVEN OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- PRASSE

"NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP CLUB, THE NAME ORIGINATED IN PART FROM
THE CHURCH IN WHICH WE ARE LOCATED, NATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH,
AND THE WORD FELLOWSHIP BECAUSE WE FEEL IT IS VERY IMPORTANT
THAT THE PEOPLE COME AND HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER,
SOCIALIZE, MEET OTHER PEOPLE, CONTINUE TO HAVE FRIENDSHIPS
AND MAKE NEW FRIENDSHIPS."

NARR: THERE ARE SEVERAL FELLOWSHIP CLUBS IN THIS AREA, ALL ON A
SMALL SCALE, UP TO TWENTY PARTICIPANTS. THEY ARE MORE LIKE
SOCIAL CLUBS WITH THERAPY RATHER THAN INSTITUTIONS AND
THEY AVOID BEING CALLED DAY-CARE CENTERS. SOME, LOCATED IN
LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS, ARE FREE OF CHARGE. THIS ONE
SERVES MAINLY PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP ON
THEIR OWN EDUCATIONAL LEVEL. SINCE THIS IS A NON-PROFIT

NARR: ORGANIZATION, THEY HAVE TO PAY TWELVE DOLLARS A DAY --
(CONT'D)

A SMALL AMOUNT IN THESE INFLATION-RIDDLED DAYS -- WHICH INCLUDES DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORTATION, A HOME COOKED HOT MEAL AND TWO SNACKS, NURSING CARE, MEDICAL SUPERVISION, THERAPIES AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, DISCUSSIONS ON BOOKS AND CURRENT EVENTS, MOVIES, GAMES AND PARTIES.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- PRASSE

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"PEOPLE WHO HAVE STROKES HAVE COME, AND THROUGH THE PHYSICAL THERAPY WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE THROUGH OUR ACTIVITIES, THEY GREATLY INCREASED THEIR INDEPENDENCE IN TERMS OF NOW BEING ABLE TO EAT AND MAINTAIN THEIR DAILY LIVING SKILLS THROUGH THE STIMULATION THAT WE PROVIDE HERE. ONE MAN, WHO WAS QUITE CONFUSED WHEN HE CAME AND VERY WITHDRAWN, HAS BEEN HERE FOR ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF, AND HE NOW IS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN OUR ACTIVITIES DURING THE DAY. ON HIS OWN HE INDICATED GOING OUT AND PUSHING A WHEEL CHAIR, HELPING THE OTHERS. AND HE IS QUITE VERBAL NOW."

NARR: THE STAFF CONSISTS OF FOUR PERSONS WITH BACKGROUNDS IN PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK, THERAPEUTIC AND NURSING CARE. THE FELLOWSHIP CLUB IS SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE BAPTIST HOME FOR THE AGED. / WILLIAM HARRIS

IS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THIS PROJECT.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- HARRIS

"THIS PROGRAM IS FINANCED PRIVATELY BY THE PARTICIPANTS WHO COME AS WELL AS BY THE SUBSIDY PROVIDED BY THE HOME AND THE CHURCH COMBINED. THE CHURCH PROVIDES THE SPACE, THE CUSTODIAN SERVICE AND SO ON. THE BAPTIST HOME PROVIDES DOLLARS TO SUBSIDIZE ON A LIMITED BASIS. WE HAVE A SECOND CENTER WHICH IS FINANCED IN LARGE MEASURES BY GOVERNMENT FUNDS."

NARR: PSYCHIATRISTS SPECIALIZING IN GERIATRICS FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RECOMMEND SUCH FELLOWSHIP CLUB TYPE OF DAY-CARE CENTERS FOR IMPAIRED ELDERLY PERSONS BECAUSE THEY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO LIVE ALONE LONGER OR TO STAY

NARR: WITH THEIR FAMILIES WITHOUT BEING TOTALLY DEPENDENT. BUT,
(CONT'D) ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE, THE DOCTORS FEEL IT IS A BETTER
SOLUTION THAN TO PLACE THE ELDERLY IN INSTITUTIONS, REMOVING
THEM FROM THE REALITIES OF LIFE.

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EACH WEEK AT THIS TIME. TODAY, YOU HEARD ABOUT THE FELLOW-
SHIP CLUBS FOR THE ELDERLY. NEXT ----- ANOTHER DATELINE.

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